

April 25, 2013

Ms. Sarah R. Gentner  
Transportation Design Engineer  
Office of Highway Development  
Maryland State Highway Administration, C-102  
707 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**RE: MD 337 Intersection Capacity Improvement  
Project at Suitland Road, SHA Contract  
Number PG7805270  
(MR-1311A)**

Dear Ms. Gentner:

The Prince George's County Planning Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the intersection capacity improvement project at the intersection of Allentown Road (MD 337) and Suitland Road. The project is limited to the immediate vicinity of that intersection, and is associated with Maryland Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities. Improvements include the widening of three of the four legs of the intersection, improvements to sidewalks, and the provision of bicycle-compatible shoulders along all four legs of the intersection. This review involves the semi-final review plans (65 percent) dated December, 2012. Staff comments are as follows:

- 1) The proposed improvements are within an existing developed area. MD 337 carries an average daily traffic (ADT) volume of 31,275 vehicles per day, and Suitland Road carries an ADT volume of 21,475 vehicles per day. The 20-year forecast indicates ADT volume for these facilities of 37,800 and 26,000 vehicles per day, respectively.
- 2) The MD 337 and Suitland Road facilities are both shown on the 2009 *Approved Countywide Master Plan of Transportation* as planned arterial facilities. They have ultimate rights-of-way of 100 to 120-feet and 89-feet to 120-feet respectively. Both facilities have ultimate recommendations of four to six lanes. Both roadways operate with four through lanes at the intersection. The right-of-way along Allentown Road is approximately 115-feet west of the intersection, and 120-feet on the east side of the intersection. Suitland Road has a right-of-way of 100-feet north of the intersection. The southeast leg of the intersection is the entrance to the main gate of Joint Base Andrews.
- 3) The project will have impacts on five properties, including additional easements and a small amount of additional right-of-way. The current project is consistent with the master plan recommendation that matches the planned ultimate section and improves the roadway's

functionality for bicyclists and pedestrians. The intersection improvements are needed to handle the forecasted ADT volume of 33,700 at level-of-service E or better. Level-of-service E has been the General Plan policy level of service in this area since 2002.

- 4) The project will result in minor impacts to an unnamed tributary to the Henson Creek and minor impacts to trees in the corridor. These impacts were not quantified in the supporting material. Any impacts are subject to permitting by the Maryland Department of the Environment.
- 5) The proposed project does not include impacts to any cultural or historic resources within Prince George's County.
- 6) The traffic control plans indicate that there will be no significant closures during the construction phases. All short-term impacts are reasonable and acceptable.
- 7) The Urban Design Section of the Development Review Division expressed some concern about a proposed retaining wall near the sidewalk at the northwest corner of the intersection. It has been ascertained that the proposed retaining wall is being downgraded to a seating ledge, no more than 18- inches in height. It will have no aesthetic treatment; will be higher than the adjacent sidewalk, and is needed to avoid direct impacts to the Quality Inn hotel building. As a result of these clarifications, the Urban Design Section had no further comment.
- 8) It is noted that many of the supporting documents describe Suitland Road as "MD 218." The MD 218 designation is carried along Suitland Road between Southern Avenue and Silver Hill Road (MD 458). The portion in this project area is operated by Prince George's County and does not carry the MD 218 designation.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to comment on this intersection capacity improvement project. If you have any additional questions or need additional information, please contact Tom Masog, Planner Coordinator, Transportation Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division, at 301-952-5216, or via email at [tom.masog@ppd.mnccppc.org](mailto:tom.masog@ppd.mnccppc.org).

Sincerely,



Fern Piret  
Planning Director

- c: Derick Berlage, Chief, Countywide Planning Division  
Eric Foster, Planning Supervisor, Transportation Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Maria Martin, Planning Supervisor, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Howard Berger, Planning Supervisor, Historic Preservation Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Cynthia Fenton, Acting Planning Supervisor, Community Planning Division  
Theodore Kowaluk, Senior Planner, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Tom Masog, Planner Coordinator, Transportation Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division  
Redis C. Floyd, Clerk of the Council, Prince George's County Council